

You may not be aware of the connection between early nutrition and its impact on diabetes. Specifically, not breastfeeding increases the risk of diabetes (in both infant and mother). A review of the literature by Schaefer-Graf et al, demonstrate that among children of women who have GDM, having been breast fed for over 3 months is negatively associated with being overweight in early childhood. In this group, the risk of childhood overweight was reduced by 40-50 percent. The effect was most pronounced when the mother was obese.

Breastfeeding mothers provide their children with a lower risk of infection and chronic diseases. There is a clear dose-response relationship between duration of breastfeeding and the extent of risk reduction. Breastfeeding improves the health of infants and mothers and can result in cost savings for parents, insurers, employers, and society. The medical and economic value of breast feeding is high. Support from employers, health insurers, health providers, and society are required to reach the goals set forth in Healthy People 2010 including 75 percent of mothers initiating breastfeeding, 50 percent of infants receiving breastmilk at 6 months, and 25 percent of infants breastfeeding at 1 year of age.

Most women want to breastfeed and deserve our help in fulfilling their goals, including providing them societal support and sparing them societal experiences that make it difficult to succeed. The GeDi Act and an increased rate of breast feeding will proactively improve the health of Americans, as well as decrease diabetes and its related illnesses and medical costs.

WithinReach and the Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington State applaud your efforts and ask that you ensure the important health and economic connection between breast feeding and diabetes is made.

Sincerely,

GINNY ENGLISH,
Executive Director,
WithinReach.
KIMBERLY RADTKE,
Coordinator,
Breastfeeding Coalition
of Washington.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS,
Washington, DC, August 8, 2006.

Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: Current national behavioral health statistics reveal that 7.2 percent of U.S. women 18 years of age and older have diabetes. This number is underestimated due to 30 percent of women who have diabetes have not been diagnosed. Of the women surveyed, 1.6 percent states that their diabetes was pregnancy related or Gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes occurs in 4-8 percent of pregnancies and places both the woman and her infant at greater risk for developing type 2 diabetes and is associated with health problems for both woman and child during the pregnancy and childbirth. With the increasing rise in obesity, the prevalence of gestational diabetes is also rising, however genetics, ethnicity, and maternal age are risk factors for the disease. Over the last several decades, the science of diagnosing and treating Gestational Diabetes advanced, but additional research is needed to understand the complex interrelationships of obesity, genetics, ethnicity and diabetes in women.

Women and diabetes are major priorities of the Women's Health Council of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. The Council is currently studying the issues surrounding diabetes and young women

through the "Pregnancy Risk Assessment Surveillance System. The Council supports your proposed legislation as the legislation further enhances the science of diabetes and its impact on women. Also, the Women's Health Council serves as an active member of the National Public Health Initiative on Diabetes and Women's Health and this proposed legislation furthers the objectives of this Initiative.

The Gestational Diabetes Act creates a Research Advisory Committee headed by the CDC and includes representatives of federal agencies, and health organizations to develop demonstration grants funding multi-site gestational diabetes research projects to expand and enhance monitoring of gestational diabetes by standardizing procedures for accurate data collection and identifying this disorder. This bill also tracks mothers who had gestational diabetes and develop methods to prevent their development of Type 2 diabetes.

Thank you for developing policy that supports women and their health status.

Sincerely,

ADELINE YERKES,
Chairperson, Women's Health Council.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, POLITICAL PARTIES, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO FACILITATE THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION OF NIGERIA FROM 1 CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TO ANOTHER IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN APRIL 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 575

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with Nigeria and values the leadership role that the United States plays throughout the continent of Africa, particularly in the establishment of the New Partnership for African Development and the African Union;

Whereas Nigeria is an important strategic partner with the United States in combating terrorism, promoting regional stability, and improving energy security;

Whereas Nigeria is a leading contributor to global peacekeeping efforts, including operations in Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Kuwait, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Rwanda, and Sudan;

Whereas past corruption and poor governance have resulted in weak political institutions, crumbling infrastructure, a feeble economy, and an impoverished population;

Whereas political aspirants and the democratic process of Nigeria are being threatened by increasing politically-motivated violence, including the assassination of 3 gubernatorial candidates in different states during the previous 2 months; and

Whereas the Chairperson of the Independent National Electoral Commission has—

(1) announced that governorship and state assembly elections will be held on April 14, 2007;

(2) stated that votes for the president and national assembly will take place on April 21, 2007; and

(3) vowed to organize free and fair elections to facilitate a smooth democratic transition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of Nigeria as a strategic partner and long-time friend of the United States;

(2) acknowledges the rising prominence of Nigeria as a leader and role model throughout the region and continent;

(3) commends the decision of the National Assembly of Nigeria to reject an amendment to the constitution that would have allowed for a third presidential term;

(4) encourages the Government of Nigeria and the Independent National Electoral Commission to demonstrate a commitment to successful democratic elections by—

(A) developing an aggressive plan for voter registration and education;

(B) addressing charges of past or intended corruption in a transparent manner; and

(C) conducting objective and unbiased recruitment and training of election officials;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria to respect the freedoms of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others—

(A) to freely assemble;

(B) to organize and conduct public events; and

(C) to exercise those and other rights in a manner free from intimidation or harassment;

(6) urges a robust effort by the law enforcement and judicial officials of Nigeria to enforce the rule of law, particularly by—

(A) preventing and investigating politically-motivated violence; and

(B) prosecuting those suspected of such acts;

(7) urges—

(A) President Bush to ensure that the United States supports the Government of Nigeria in that regard; and

(B) the Government of Nigeria to actively seek the support of the international community for democratic, free, and fair elections in April 2007; and

(8) expresses the support of the United States for coordinated efforts by the Government of Nigeria and the Independent National Electoral Commission to work with political parties, civil society, religious organizations, and other entities to organize a peaceful political transition based on free and fair elections in April 2007 to further consolidate the democracy of Nigeria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. TALENT, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BURNS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 576

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually cosponsor Red Ribbon Week during the week of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas a purpose of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to commemorate the service of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a special agent of